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<b>C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L/CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY</b> <b>INFORMATION REPORT</b>	
PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY	
COUNTRY	Near East Near East Self-Sufficiency/USSR Winning Peace Offensive/Nationalism 25X1A
SUBJECT	PLACE ACQUIRED (By source) [REDACTED]
DATE	INFORMATION (Date or dates, on or between which, conditions described in report existed) 18 May 1955 and earlier
REPORT NO. 25X1A DATE DISTRIBUTED Jun 55 NO. OF PAGES 2 NO. OF ENCLS. SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT # RESPONSIVE TO 25X1A	
25X1X SOURCE [REDACTED]	
1. 25X1X [REDACTED]	
First the Near East is expecting less from the West than it did a year or a year and a half ago. They expected, in those days, a drastic change of sentiment, a policy of get more support economic or otherwise from the US or the UN but now there is a feeling of self-sufficiency - that is if there is anything that's got to be done they've got to do it themselves, so, they are expecting less and with that goes a sense of less fear that some big Power threatens either to cut them off or to cut them adrift or not to help them - they don't seem to worry so much these days. They don't worry so much about what the Power might do to them or for them. They must depend upon themselves - their feelings and rights.	
2. 25X1X Their not scaring easily applies to the H-bomb - [REDACTED] to come back and find such a sophisticated and advanced civilization as our own with the papers and magazines monopolized by the "fall-out" and by what is going to happen to us, and to read ads in the papers about shelters etc so you won't be blotted out in the first 10 seconds of the next war. There is almost nothing of that in the Middle East. It may be partly fatalism, it may be partly like the feeling of the people who live on the slopes of Mount Vesuvius that if it's going to come it's going to come and you might as well not worry about it any more than about an earthquake, but you can't scare them by the cold war talk. So, expecting less, and fearing less, from the West is the first general point	
3. 25X1X The second is that the peace offensive is being won by the USSR in the Near East. There is no very visible sign of Soviet aggression in the Middle East. They don't appear or loom up as monsters. It's the old story - they use native emotionalism, native nationalism, native sects, native hatreds, and dynastic rivalries. The fact remains that a lot of our anti-propaganda, our anti-Communist literature falls on rather deaf ears because they don't see the USSR or hear her with their eyes and their ears as a monster about to hurt them. True, there are Communist agitations. There are demonstrations in the street occasionally, and they'll lock up a Communist here and there but it's not a very obvious enemy, and the obvious enemy is the one that the peace offensive of the Soviets tells them about. Soviet propaganda is swallowed almost wholesale	
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2

out there now. It comes over in peaceful tones (and the Moscow broadcasts are in Arabic) that the meddlers are these Western imperialists, who split the Arabs, who create puppets, who support emperors from Vietnam who live on the Riviera with their concubines, who support the French in North Africa against the people struggling for what the US achieved in 1776. Everywhere we are represented as the meddlers, the troublemakers, and the dividers, and the Soviets seem quite bland and harmless by contrast. So the peace offensive is being stolen by the Soviets.

4. And, the third general comment is that with the breakup of even the pretense of unity in the Arab League national interests dominate in almost all of the countries. Not Islamic interests, nor Pan Arab interests, nor Near East interests, but national interests. Isn't it rather discouraging to find over and over again in the last two generations when we think we are building up something a little different through the League of Nations or the UN - the same thing I find in the Near East that when you come down to it and they fall apart - nationalism seems to be the strongest cement that still has been discovered. Some of these national interests point our way. Iraq, of course, is the hopeful country with a great future and a great past. It's pro-West - openly so. Lebanon and Jordan are basically pro-West, and Egypt also, I believe, if she were free of temporary fears. The reactionary on the other hand is Saudi Arabia with its Yemen satellites where the national interests points to be different from the sophisticated countries like Iraq and Lebanon, being a champion of primitive Islam, leads to a reaction anti-modern, anti-foreign, anti-progressive. They have taken backward steps recently in education and economics and in other ways, so that the pro-Western bloc there is reactionary.

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<u>July</u>	<u>Area</u>	TYPE ACT-DATE INFO-TFR-DATE AREA
65-49.2		- 55 - -
22-55.6	Near East	
Attitudes toward	426	
West - Comm.		

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